

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11124 231200Z

ACTION EA-09

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION - WOLFF NAMES NAMES

USIA FOR IEA, IPS, IBS, IOR/RIM, IOP/M

EDITORIAL MAY 21 IN THAI RATH, THAILAND'S LARGEST-CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, DESCRIBES CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S NAMING OF SINO-THAI BUSINESSMEN AS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AS "A SHARP SLAP IN THE FACE FOR (THAI GOVERNMENT) OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF DRUG SUPPRESSION." EDIT SAYS THE WOLFF DISCLOSURES ALSO SHOW "HOW WIDESPREAD THE INFLUENCE OF THESE DRUG TRAFFICKERS IS", AND SUGGESTS THAT THIS INFLUENCE EVEN EXTENDS TO THAI OFFICIALS THEMSELVES.

WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ARE NECESSARY FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING TO FUNCTION, EDIT NOTES, AND SAYS THAT THE WOLFF REVELATIONS DO NOT ONLY "MAKE THAILAND ALONE LOSE FACE, BUT ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE REPUTATION AND ESPECIALLY THE EFFICIENCY OF ALL CRUG SUPPRESSION OFFICIALS."

EDIT CONCLUDES, "SINCE THE U.S. KNOWS THE NAMES OF BIG DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND HAS NOW OPENLY DISCLOSED THEIR NAMES, IF THEY ARE NOT PROMPTLY ARRESTED AND LEGAL ACTION TAKEN TO PUNISH THEM, IT WILL SHOW EVEN MORE CLEARLY THAT DRUG SUPPRESSION OFFICIALS THEMSELVES ARE DELIBERATELY TURNING A BLIND EYE TO DRUG TRAFFICKING. THAI OFFICIALS MUST PROVE TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT

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THAILAND AND ALL THE THAI PEOPLE ARE SINCERE IN THE COOPERATION THEY ARE GIVING TO SUPPRESS AND COMPLETELY ERADICATE THIS GREAT DANGER TO HUMAN BEINGS, NOT ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF OUR OWN PEOPLE BUT FOR THE SAKE OF FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

EDITORIAL MAY 23 IN SIANG PUANG CHON ECHOES THE THAI RATH

CONTENTION THAT THE WOLFF REMARKS ARE A "SLAP ON THE FACES OF THAI OFFICIALS" AND URGES THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO REPLY TO THE CHARGES. EDIT SAYS, "IF (THE THAI GOVERNMENT) REMAINS SILENT, THE WORLD WILL SIMPLY THINK THAT OUR OFFICIALS ADMIT THE CONGRESSMAN'S ALLEGATION AS TRUE AND THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE AS IN-EFFICIENT, WHICH IS SHAMEFUL AND DAMAGING."

COLUMNIST MOD KAN FAI, WRITING MAY 21 IN THE MASS CIRCULATION BAN MUANG, ALSO URGES A THAI GOVERNMENT RESPONSE, "BECAUSE THAT STATEMENT IS MOST DAMAGING TO OUR REPUTATION."
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